

STAT

Radio Hanoi

10 August 1972      2000 to 2030 hours, Saigon time      Frequency: 10.060 kcs

NVN male voice:

This is the Voice of Vietnam.

SVN female voice:

We now bring you the "Cities of the South" program.

NVN female voice:

Dear listeners, in today's broadcast you will hear:

1/ Current events commentary by "Mr. Telescope."

SVN female voice:

2/ Opinions of cityfolk re the bitter fight waged by the Saigon press against THIEU's fascist decree-law.

NVN female voice:

3/ And to conclude our program, we have a feature entitled "They openly acknowledge themselves to be thieves."

((monitor's report skips items one and two))

NVN female voice:

Dear listeners in the cities of the South, in a previous broadcast we had occasion to expose the Saigon-based mimic station which attempts to mix its reactionary line into the regular programming of the Voice of Vietnam. Today we invite you to sit in judgement on a new kind of "made in USA" stealing that is even more flagrant and despicable than that phoney mimic. What do we mean? The following feature, "They openly acknowledge themselves to be thieves," will answer that question.

SVN female voice:

The fact that the THIEU clique are a bunch of thieves is nothing new, its as commonly known as the fact that dogs eat excrement. But today's feature about their stealing is not the same old story of skimming off war material and rice rations in order to buy diamonds, a practice at which THIEU and his lackeys are so proficient.

This theft involves the stealing of something spiritual, something cultural. What are they doing, you ask? They are stealing songs. Not US, West German, Korean or Thai songs, but the songs of Socialist North Vietnam--the songs of a regime which the THIEU clique regards as its sworn enemy. In the past NGO DINH DIEM had stolen the song "Appeal to Youth" by LUU HUU PHUOC (now Minister of Information in the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam) and made it the national anthem of SVN--a fact that created a popular furor. And now that traitor NGUYEN VAN THIEU has updated and escalated this kind of theft. Prison Warden THIEU let his Saigon-based megaphone spout recordings of Northern songs with altered words, parodies in tune with the enemy line. And they pour out these parodies over that Saigon-based radio. They steal songs from other people, while openly confessing themselves to be shameless thieves without the least compunction whatsoever.

To give you a concrete example--everybody knows the song "Ready! Open Fire!" by TO HAI. In the North, this song appeared in the very first days of our fight against the US bandits' air war of destruction, and has been heard frequently over the Voice of Vietnam radio. But out of the blue, not long ago folks were surprised to hear a Saigon-based megaphone broadcast a song with that same title, by that very same composer, but with completely counterfeit words. To help you listeners hear the difference, here is the real "Ready! Open Fire!" by TO HAI as recorded by the Voice of Vietnam symphony orchestra and chorus:

((record of original song))

And here is the piratted version of the same song as broadcast over that Saigon-based station, complete with their announcer's introduction:

((re-broadcast, voice of announcer VAN:))

And now friends, to continue our program today HIEN invites you to listen to a familiar song, "Ready! Open Fire!" by TO HUU. If you listen closely you'll see that the tune's the same but there's been a bit of a change in the words...

((re-broadcast of parody in full:))

Firmly grasping my heavy machine gun, I am ready to meet the puppets and am resolved to win. One bullet for each foe. Enemy corpses will cover the battlefield. But those enemy troops, who

are they? My hand falls from the trigger, my heart melts. Those troops, they are my brothers. How could we kill one another? I hope and wait for the day guns will fall silent in both North and South. Vietnam will escape this calamity. The wind will blow out this war, a new dawn will come. Brother, you must leave this battleground and go home to your familiar streets and city parks. Our old mother has waited these 18 long years. I will follow you and bid farewell to arms. I will return to the farm, the green ricefields. We'll shout our joy, peace, plenty and love of life will leap over every mountain, ever river. New happiness, Mother Vietnam!

SVN female voice:

Now you've had a chance to compare the two versions. Our song, broadcast by the Voice of Vietnam, aims at stirring up the revolutionary heroism of our people, encouraging one and all to hold their heads high and zero in their gun-sights on the enemy, and open fire. The parody, i.e. the version piratted and altered by the Saigon-based megaphone, is aimed at fomenting defeatist sentiment and appeals to our people to drop their guns and surrender to the enemy. One song, but with two sets of words. But their brass will never be mistaken for our gold.

The above trick is so low and nasty, no wonder there has been an angry public reaction. Our reporter interviewed Composer TO HAI, who wrote the above song. Here is is angry rebuttal:

NVN male voice, TO HAI:

You have just had a chance to compare the song "Ready! Open Fire!" as written by myself with the version counterfeited by that...that Mother Vietnam station. When I heard my song, those new words filled me with anger, loathing and scorn--but to tell the truth I could hardly keep from laughing. How could "they" ever be able to comprehend such a Northern song whose every note and syllable bear such deep meaning for us. I wrote that song in the first days of the air war of destruction that the American Imperialists mounted against our North Vietnam. The song was born right when an anti-aircraft artillery unit in Quang Ninh had shot down the first US warplane. The song spread to all units of our army, voicing our determination to get the enemy in our sights and open fire. After this

explanation of the context and content of my song, let me add that those who perpetrated the two-bit fraudulent version of my song merely wasted their time.

All this goes to show that the abortion calling itself Mother Vietnam Radio doesn't know anything about music and has to resort to stealing. This fact also makes us Northern musicians and composers all the more confident that of all the reputable musicians living in the region still occupied by the Americans and their puppets, nobody would stoop to creating such music, that kind of—pardon the expression—CIA music, for the US-THIEU clique. That dirty trick of stealing and altering other people's brainchildren will assuredly fail to achieve the end they sought. On the contrary, it will incur the wrath of the very artists and writers living in the enemy controlled area, and be a mere laughing-stock to all persons a bit qualified to evaluate the worth of a work of art.

By stealing the artistic creations of North VN, and even admitting the act of theft and identifying the people they have robbed, it is obvious that Saigon's abortion-megaphone calling itself "Mother Vietnam Radio" (and here let me change the tone mark on 'Mother,' punning it into 'whore,' just as we branded 'French whore,' 'Japanese whore' and 'Yankee whore'—a name more in tune with the real situation down South). As I was saying, it is clear that this abortion has acknowledged its own inability to create anything, just part and parcel of the general downhill skid prevailing in all fields—military, political, cultural, even in music—down there. Our enemy trembles with fear when confronted by our will to fight and win, a spirit to which we Northern artists and writers are honoured to contribute. I hope that the patriotic musicians down South will join with us in burying that abortion.

SVN female voice:

Dear listeners, the song "Ready! Open Fire!" is just one example. That Saigon-based megaphone has also stolen songs of other composers such as THUAN YEN, NGUYEN KHAC TOAN, etc. And they're stealing even more. From this one can see exactly how impotent and rotten the Saigon regime has become at present—even in the arts, much less in the political, military, economic and social fields. So rotten they have to resort to stealing. A regime so rotten an eyesore, no wonder our compatriots demand to throw it out, even though NIXON keeps mumbling promises to keep it afloat.

Dear listeners, we invite you to listen to the Voice of Vietnam symphony orchestra and chorus perform TO HAI's "Ready! Open Fire!" one more time:

((song))

Dear listeners, this is the end of today's "Cities of the South" program. Your announcers have been KIM CUC and LAN HUONG. Goodby, listeners.

Note: Total air time devoted to segment attacking Mother VN (including all the songs) was 16 minutes out of 30 minute show.